

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 /018 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193018

FOL RPT SINGAPORE 3677 ACTION SECSTATE KUALA LUMPUR INFO  
HONG KONG JAKARTA SANA TOKYO 04 AUG QUOTE

O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REF: SINGAPORE 3537

1. THE THIRTY ONE REFUGEES ABOARD THE PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSEL  
S.S. CAPE ERIMO ARE STILL ANCHORED OUTSIDE OF SINGAPORE HARBOR  
LIMITS. THEY ARE IN FINE SHAPE. THE OWNER'S (TAURUS MARINE  
CO. (PANAMA)) AGENT, TOYO MARINE COMPANY, HAS SENT A SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE TO SINGAPORE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM ALONG  
WITH SHIP'S LOCAL AGENT, BORNEO COMPANY. SHIP'S LONG TERM CHARTERER  
IS SHINWA (JAPANESE COMPANY) AND BARE BOAT CHARTERER IS NIPPON  
YUSEN KAISHA (NYK).

2. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH TOYO MARINE REP, IT APPEARS SEVERAL  
ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF CONSISTENT GOS  
REFUSAL TO ALTER POSITION VIS-A-VIS REFUGEES.

A. SHIP COULD PROCEED TO HODEIDA (YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC), NEXT  
PORT OF CALL, AND THERE DEBARK THOSE REFUGEES WHO HAD BY THIS  
TIME RECEIVED PAROLE AUTHORIZATION.

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B. SHIP COULD TRANSFER REFUGEES TO ANOTHER SHIP OWNED BY SAME

COMPANY ENROUTE TO JAPAN.

C. SHIP COULD HEAD TO ANOTHER PORT.

D. SHIP COULD REMAIN IN SINGAPORE UNTIL U.S. PAROLE AUTHORIZED.

E. SHIPPING COMPANIES COULD PAY THE \$10,000 PER HEAD BOND ALLEGEDLY REQUESTED BY SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO DEBARK IN CUSTODY OF UNHCR (ALTHOUGH SHIP'S AGENTS BELIEVE THIS MAY BE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE, EMBOFF INFORMED BY MISS FRASER OF UNHCR OFFICE IN KUALA LUMPUR THAT SINGAPORE COMPTROLLER OF IMMIGRATION HAS SPECIFIED THAT BOND WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY LETTER OF GUARANTEE FROM SOME GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD UNCONDITIONALLY AGREE TO RECEIVE REFUGEES).

3. NYK IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ALTERNATIVE (D) AS THEIR NEW YORK OFFICE CLAIMS, AFTER CONTACTING STATE DEPARTMENT, THAT USG WILL SOON ISSUE BLANKET PAROLE DOCUMENT FOR ALL 31 REFUGEES. SINCE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT NYK IS UNDULY OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS OF EARLY PAROLE ACTION, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT NYK'S NEW YORK OFFICE AND CLARIFY DEPARTMENT'S POLICY, PROCEDURES AND LIKELY TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETING ACTION ON THESE CASES.

4. AS FOR ALTERNATIVE (C), MALAYSIAN HI COM SECOND SECRETARY CONVEYED IMPRESSION TO EMBOFF DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CASE THAT GOM MIGHT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A REQUEST THAT REFUGEES BE OFFLOADED AT PORT KLANG. THIS CONFLICTS WITH IMPRESSION EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM KL 4352. REQUEST EMBASSY KL COMMENT ON ADVISABILITY OF SUGGESTING TO UNHCR THAT IT APPROACH GOM TO ALLOW TEMPORARY DEBARKATION AT PORT KLANG. UNHCR REP SAMPAKUMAR IS PRESENTLY IN HONG KONG, AND HAS LEFT HIS KL OFFICE WITHOUT INSTRUCTION AS TO HOW TO UNTANGLE THIS DILEMMA. THEREFORE, ANY APPROACH TO UNHCR WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN HONG KONG. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH SAMPAKUMAR UNLESS EMBASSY KL BELIEVES THERE IS SOME CHANCE OF PERSUADING GOM TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO DEBARK.

5. WE HAVE HEARD FROM UNHCR THAT THE CONSIGNEE OF THE CARGO HAS GIVEN AN AUGUST 5 DEADLINE FOR THE SHIP TO DEPART SINGAPORE. IF EMBASSY KL BELIEVES THERE IS BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE THAT GOM WOULD ALLOW REFUGEES TO DEBARK AT PORT KLANG, EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE SHIP'S AGENT TO SEND SHIP TO PORT KLANG  
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PENDING UNHCR APPROACH TO GOM.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY KL ADVISE ASAP. GRANT

UNQUOTE HABIB

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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